

## Message Text

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42-S

ORIGIN NASA-04

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SCI-06 SS-20 INR-10 PM-07 L-03

RSC-01 /062 R

DRAFTED BY NASA:BGOETZ AF/C:JHALLDIGGS

APPROVED BY AF/C:APALMER

NASA: T TRUZYNSKI

NASA: I MORRIS

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R 012255Z MAR 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TANANARIVE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 041809

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:TSPA

SUBJECT:NASA STATION: SYNCHRONOUS METEREOLOGICAL

SATELLITE LAUNCHING

REF: TANANARIVE 037 (EXDIS)

1. AS EDELINE KNOWS, UPCOMING LAUNCH OF SMS (NOW SCHEDULED FOR MAY BUT MAY SLIP MID-JUNE) REQUIRES CONTINUOUS MONITORING OF SATELLITE ORIENTATION DURING TRANSFER TO GEOSYNCHRONOUS ORBIT INSERTION USING SPECIAL EQUIPMENT INSTALLED EARLIER AT NASA'S TANANARIVE STATION. IN VIEW OF UNCERTAINTY AS TO OUTCOME AND TIMING OF CURRENT AGREEMENT ON RENEWAL NEGOTIATIONS, NASA EXTREMELY CONCERNED THAT, IN EVENT OF NEGATIVE DECISION ON PART GOMR, SUFFICIENT TIME WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO IMPLEMENT CONTINGENCY CAPABILITIES TO SUPPORT CURRENT IN-ORBIT SPACECRAFT AND NEW SPACECRAFT LAUNCHINGS IN PARTICULAR SMS.

2. CONSEQUENTLY NASA MUST TAKE STEPS TO ENSURE COVERAGE FROM OTHER LOCATIONS, AND HAS INITIATED ACTION TO RELOCATE TRACKING SHIP VANGUARD (AUGMENTED WITH ADDITIONAL INSTRUMENTATION) TO INDIAN OCEAN AND MOVE SMS ELECTRONICS RACKS FROM STATION IN US TO ORRORAL VALLEY STATION IN AUSTRALIA.

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3. AS PART OF THIS CONTINGENCY CAPABILITY NASA INTENDS,

BUT HAS NOT EXECUTED, THE RELOCATION OF THE SPECIAL SMS EQUIPMENT NOW INSTALLED AT TANANARIVE TO THE JOHANNESBURG STATION IN S.AFRICA. TO MEET MAY SMS LAUNCH SCHEDULE NASA CONSIDERS IT NECESSARY TO PHYSICALLY REMOVE RACKS

FROM TANANARIVE NO LATER THAN APRIL 1.

4. MOVEMENT OF THE EQUIPMENT FROM TANANARIVE COULD NOT GO UNNOTICED SINCE LOCAL TECHNICIANS HAVE BEEN TRAINED AS SMS CONTROLLERS AND HAVE BEEN TRAINED IN THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF THIS EQUIPMENT. RELOCATION WOULD LIKEWISE BE EVIDENT THROUGH ROUTINE OPERATIONAL DISCUSSIONS OVER SCAMA COMMUNICATIONS NETWORK.

5. DESPITE THESE PLANS FOR CONTINGENCY CAPABILITIES, RENEWAL OF AGREEMENT STILL DESIRED BY NASA UNDER CONDITIONS PREVIOUSLY ITERATED.

6. AT THE APPROPRIATE LEVEL AT THE MOFA, THE EMBASSY MIGHT (1) INDICATE THAT ALTHOUGH NEGOTIATIONS ARE STILL IN PROCESS FOR THE RENEWAL OF THE STATION AGREEMENT, NASA WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO RELY ON THE STATION FOR SUPPORT OF THE SMS PROGRAM.WHERE CONTINUOUS MONITORING REQUIRED DURING THE TRANSFER ORBIT, OR ALTERNATIVELY, (2) INDICATE THE NECESSITY IN VIEW OF THE ABSENCE OF AN AGREEMENT AT THIS TIME, OF RELOCATION OF CERTAIN TECHNICAL EQUIPMENT IN ORDER TO PROVIDE CONTINUOUS MONITORING DURING THE TRANSFER ORBIT FOR THE FORTH-COMING SERIES OF LAUNCHINGS WHICH ARE PART OF THE SMS PROGRAM.

7. EMBASSY MAY WISH FIRST TO DISCUSS THE PREFERRED APPROACH PRIVATELY WITH GEN ANDRIAMAHAZO, IF HE RETURNS NEXT WEEK, BEFORE DISCUSSING THE MATTER WITH MOFA OFFICIALS.

8. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY COMMENTS AS TO WHAT EFFECT ANNOUNCEMENT AND SUBSEQUENT EXECUTION OF THIS PLAN MAY HAVE ON NEGOTIATIONS OR WHETHER IT CAN BE USEFULLY EMPLOYED TO ENCOURAGE POSITIVE RESOLUTION. CASEY  
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NOTE BY OC/T: DISTRIBUTION COORDINATED WITH S/SO, MR.KURZE.

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Reference:** TANANARIVE 037 (EXDIS)  
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**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 03 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
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**Review History:** RELEASED <03 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <06 JAN 2003 by golinofr>  
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**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** TSPA, US, MA, NASA  
**To:** TANANARIVE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005